



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Tallulah Ranger District

809 Hwy. 441 South
P.O. Box 438
Clayton, GA 30525
(706) 782-3320

File Code: 1950-3-1/7700

Date: July 8, 2004

Dear Forest Stakeholder;

The Tallulah Ranger District is considering obliteration and rehabilitation projects on three public ways (old roads) that Rabun County has officially abandoned. Under the abandonment process, these roads reverted back to the ownership of the adjacent landowner. In this case, the adjacent landowner is the US Forest Service.

The rehabilitation process would consist of blocking portions of the road to vehicles, improving drainage off of the old roadbed, and revegetating the exposed soils. In areas that would be obliterated, the process would consist of reshaping some sections of the roadbed to the natural contour, blocking access to vehicles by a variety of means, and revegetating the exposed soils.

The three roads are as follows and the sites are shown on the attached maps.

A. Glade Road above the Glade Hope Cemetery.

The proposal on this road would include the closure and obliteration of the road from the North Carolina state line to a point between the stream crossing just north of Glade Hope Cemetery and the cemetery.

B. Old Burrell's Ford Road between Glade Road and the new Burrell's Ford Road.

The proposal on this road would be to close and obliterate the road from its intersection with the Glade Road to a location immediately west of the camp sites on the east end of the road, approximately 0.3 miles west of its intersection with the new Burrell's Ford Road. The eastern 0.3 miles would be rehabilitated.

C. Hick's Road from Glade Road to the west end of the wildlife opening off of the Burrell's Ford Road.

The proposal on this road would close and obliterate the road from its intersection with the Glade Road to a point above the open field on the east end where an old home site once existed. Rehabilitation would occur from this home site east to the New Burrell's Ford Road.

These proposals retain access to the existing campsites and portions of the streams that are heavily fished in the areas. Closure and obliteration would be very complete on the first 100-200 yards of the roads, with only drainage improvements and revegetation



occurring on the balance of the length of the roads. This would remove vehicles from these roads, but continue to allow hiking and search and rescue measures.

This proposal is a starting point for discussion and analysis and no decision has been made. Comments received help define the issues to be considered, contribute to the development of viable options to the proposal, and/or indicate mitigation measures needed.

It is very helpful to receive your comments, concerns, and ideas early in our planning process to identify all of the important issues and conduct an analysis of the proposed project that meets the intent of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). This project appears to fall into a category of actions that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. This determination however would not be finalized until after consideration of your comments and concerns. My staff may also use your comments to modify the specific methods described in the proposal. Planning and analysis within the project area is expected to be completed over the next two to four months.

Responses should contain specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that I would then consider in reaching a final decision on this proposal. Comments received, including names, become part of the project record and are available for public review. For additional information about this proposed action, please contact Allen Smith or myself at the address or telephone number listed above. You may also comment by e-mail (asmith02@fs.fed.us), or in person (across from Quality Inn in Clayton). Please note that you will be sent further correspondence on the project *only* if you comment on the project or if you request a copy of the final decision document.

This letter is being sent to organizations and individuals who have previously participated or been interested in our project proposals. This letter assumes that you have some familiarity with the planning process as conducted by the Forest Service in accordance with NEPA. If you are receiving this letter and are unsure of the context or how to participate, please contact us. Management of the National Forest is a public trust and is best conducted with broad participation.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

/s/ David W. Jensen
DAVID W. JENSEN
District Ranger